

opens the doors of the global economy to the poorest villages in the most remote locations where entrepreneurial creativity and hard work become bankable assets.

As the story of Contreras Lopez indicates, devoting greater resources to effective humanitarian programs like microenterprise yields hope and empowerment to the world's poorest people and demonstrates that the United States is committed to spreading the rewards that can proliferate in a free-enterprise system. I firmly support expanding the reach of the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 as a proven method of improving the lives of families and communities across the world, and I am proud to support this important measure.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID M. STONE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the achievements of the Federal Security Director at the Los Angeles International Airport, retired Rear Admiral David M. Stone.

During his tenure with the Transportation Security Administration, Admiral Stone has been instrumental in enhancing the security of the Los Angeles International Airport, the largest origin and destination airport in the world. In addition to working closely with my office, he has worked closely with the aviation and transportation industry, elected officials at every level of government, and, most important, with the talented pool of workers and applicants for employment at LAX.

Through Admiral Stone's efforts, Los Angeles is a safer place. Under his leadership, TSA was able to mobilize, train, and deploy the largest federalized screener force in the United States, two weeks before the national deadline. He also implemented the 100 percent checked baggage screening program at LAX, screening in excess of 150,000 bags per day. He did a superb job of demonstrating TSA's competence, which Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge had the opportunity to see when he visited LAX on April 25, 2003.

I was proud that Admiral Stone served on my Service Academy Selection Committee. As a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, his evaluation of prospective cadets contributed to the selection of the most qualified candidates in the 36th District of California for nomination to our Nation's military academies.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss working with David Stone on enhancing security at LAX. I salute his accomplishments and wish him well.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 22ND ANNUAL TURKISH-AMERICAN DAY PARADE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 22nd annual Turkish-American Day Parade. For over 20 years the parade

has united people in its celebration of the many contributions Turkish Americans have made to the history and diversity of New York City, and our great country.

Since its conception, The Federation of Turkish American Associations, which hosts the parade, has successfully established a vital link between the Turkish and American communities. The Federation has evolved with the changing times and has expanded in size, membership and purpose.

The parade is a culmination of the month long Turkish Culture Festival. Americans of all heritages will be treated to lavish floats, men women and children dressed in regional attire, and a sea of American and Turkish flags. Miss World, Azra Akin, will also participate.

New York is a city inspired by every corner of the globe. We draw on and benefit from a myriad of cultures whose citizens have settled here lending their talents, ambition and drive. Turkish influence is evident throughout the city.

It is hard to walk a block in New York City without seeing a Turkish restaurant, a building whose design was influenced by Turkish architecture or a store awning that includes calligraphy, an art form first practiced in Turkey.

The Turkish-American Day Parade is also a chance to honor Turkish Americans who are leaders in their fields, having made contributions in business, the arts, entertainment, and public service not only for the Turkish community, but for all New Yorkers and Americans. Post parade festivities include various Turkish folk dancing troupes, traditional costumes, music, food and artists displaying diverse Turkish culture. In addition, Turkish American Veterans will participate.

In recognition of outstanding Turkish American contributions, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 22nd annual Turkish American Day Parade.

HONORING CHIEF YEOMAN RICHARD MARK ZWEIFACH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. I rise in recognition of Senior Chief Yeoman Richard Mark Zweifach, a well-respected leader in the Navy who recently announced his retirement. In his 20 years of service Richard was a leading voice in the Navy.

He joined the Navy in the summer of 1983 and had basic training in Orlando. Upon leaving basic training Richard began his service in Mississippi until settling in New London, CT for almost 4 years. The Navy transferred him to San Diego in 1987 and remained there until 1993. In 1994, Richard went back East to Kings Bay, GA spending 2½ years on the USS *West Virginia*. After his service in Georgia, Richard returned to San Diego to serve with the Submarine Development Squadron. He has served in this capacity for more than 6 years.

While serving his country, Richard still found time to get married and raise a family. He is a devoted husband to his beautiful wife, Traci, and a dedicated father to his three wonderful children, Richard Jr., Ariel and Ashley.

Although he retires from the Navy, Richard still plans to keep his active community life-

style. He is thinking about joining the local police force, which would allow him to continue to help others.

I congratulate Richard on his 20 years of service to our country and applaud his continued devotion to help others. His dedication to our country and his family is a model for all. Thank you on behalf of the people of the 4th Congressional District and others who benefited from your hard work and dedication.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORPHAN DRUG ACT AND THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR RARE DISORDERS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 147, Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders. This resolution honors an exemplary organization that has vastly improved the lives of millions of Americans with rare diseases and their families.

The Orphan Drug Act of 1983 filled a void in our health care system—the fact that drug companies were unwilling or unable to invest in developing products to treat rare diseases. The incentives that the Orphan Drug Act put into place have made dramatic improvements in the availability of treatments for the 25 million Americans affected by rare diseases. In the decade before the Orphan Drug Act was signed into law, ten treatments for orphan disease were developed. In the last 20 years, more than 200 treatments for rare diseases have been approved by the FDA, and more than 900 more are in development.

The National Organization of Rare Disorders has represented a lifeline for millions of families since its inception in 2003. It has been instrumental in providing information about diseases and their treatments, and for connecting individuals impacted by rare disorders with advocacy organizations and with each other, allowing patients and families to gain invaluable support and advice from those suffering from the same conditions. It has connected patients with drug assistance programs, to help them to access life improving drugs that they otherwise could not afford.

I want to draw particular attention to the various disorders characterized as types of epilepsy. The Orphan Drug Act has been instrumental in the development of epilepsy treatments such as sodium valproate and a gel form of diazepam, or Valium. But, for epilepsy and thousands of other disorders, there is much more work to be done. New evidence of the damaging long-term effects of seizures represents an additional call to action to develop better treatments for the various epileptic disorders. Twenty-five percent of epilepsy patients have uncontrolled seizures, and even those for whom medicine or surgery are effective still suffer seizures and their damaging effects.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman FOLEY and the entire Energy and Commerce Committee for introducing this important resolution and bringing it to the floor today. And I applaud the perseverance of NORD founder

Abbey Meyers and the other courageous individuals who advocated for the passage of the Orphan Drug Act and have given a brighter future to millions of American families over the last 20 years. For these reasons, I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote for H. Con. Res. 147.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN MIKE
GIN

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend, Mike Gin, who retires this week from the Redondo Beach City Council after 8 years of distinguished service.

In addition to his work on the council, Mike's service to his community covers a wide range of community groups including the Redondo Beach Historical Society, the Chinese Americans United for Self-Empowerment, and the Beach Cities Branch of the American Heart Association. He is also a member of the Redondo Beach Sister Cities Association, the Redondo Beach Jaycees, the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Redondo Beach Rotary Club.

I consider Mike a "lunch-pail politician," who prides himself on doing the little things—like parks and potholes—that help make the City of Redondo Beach one of the nicest places to live in California. He was famous for holding Saturday morning office hours with his constituents so he could spend time listening to their concerns.

But Mike's retirement from the City Council does not mean he is giving up on public service. In fact, this month Mike left his information services job to become Deputy to another good friend, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. I am delighted that much of the area Mike will cover for Supervisor Knabe remains in my own Congressional district. My staff and I look forward to working with Mike in this new capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss Mike's warm personality on the City Council but am glad he will continue to play an active role in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VILLAGE
REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB ON
THEIR 20TH ANNUAL DINNER

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Village Reform Democratic Club on the occasion of their 20th annual dinner. For over 20 years, the Village Reform Democratic Club has led its neighborhood in addressing and resolving important political and community issues.

As is their custom the Village Reform Democratic Club will honor community leaders at their dinner. This year the honorees will be the Caring Community for 30 years of service to the elderly, as well as Saul Fishman and Barry Benepe, two men who in their own ways

have helped shape the cultural and social fabric of New York City.

For more than 30 years, professionals and volunteers at the Caring Community have helped and empowered seniors within our community, offering a broad array of programs and services, including the home delivery of over 50,000 hot meals, assistance with shopping and home repairs and assistance to seniors who are crime victims.

Most importantly Caring Community operates four centers for older adults. These four centers, at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, Independence Plaza, The First Presbyterian Church and Center on the Square, are open Monday to Friday from 9 to 5. These centers offer a wide variety of programs for seniors as well as a place where seniors can enjoy a hot meal.

One center is located at Independence Plaza, a neighbor to the World Trade Center. The seniors in Independence Plaza were displaced from their homes for weeks or longer. Without the crucial assistance provided by the Caring Community, many of these seniors would have been unable to deal with the psychological impact of 9/11 and might never have returned to their homes.

In this time, when government is reducing spending on all services, and charitable giving, especially by corporations has been severely curtailed, along with the Village Reform Democratic Club I am proud to recognize all those who contribute their time and resources to the work of the Caring Center.

Saul Fishman is a pioneer in the fight for domestic partnership for gay and lesbian couples. Beginning in 1987, Saul served as spokesman for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gays Rights and later as the chair of the Family Diversity Coalition and as a member of the Mayor's Partner Task Force.

As an activist in the Civil Service Bar Association, the union representing attorneys employed by New York City, Saul persuaded the union to become the first to offer domestic partner benefits to its members. Saul later convinced the municipal unions to demand that the City of New York grant bereavement leave to any City employee who lost a domestic partner. In a dramatic confrontation with then Mayor Koch, Saul got the mayor to accept the provision.

Having secured significant protections for the domestic partners of New York City employees, Saul turned to the wider issue of domestic partnership law to protect all New Yorkers. After I agreed to sponsor the bill in the City Council, Saul lobbied other members to be cosponsors and supporters. Passage of that first domestic partnership bill was hailed as an unparalleled victory for the gay and lesbian community. It is a testament to Saul Fishman's unending energy and unwavering belief that all people should have equal protection under the law.

In 1976 Barry Benepe had the idea of bringing fresh produce directly to the people of New York City, and with that the Green Market was born. Starting with three sites and few local farmers, over the past 2½ decades the Green Market has expanded to 18 locations bringing over 150 farmers from 4 states.

Consumers appreciate the fresh alternatives offered by the Green Market, while many environmentalists commend the transportation and environmental benefits of locally grown foods. For this Barry was awarded a Special Citation

by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He also received a Municipal Art Society's Certificate of Merit as well as a National Recognition Award from the America the Beautiful Fund.

It is members like Saul Fishman and Barry Benepe that have made the Village Reform Democratic Club a force for social change in New York City.

In recognition of these outstanding contributions, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Caring Community, Saul Fishman, Barry Benepe and Village Reform Democratic Club on the occasion of their 20th annual dinner.

HONORING TAIWAN PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on his third anniversary in office. Three years ago, voters in Taiwan elected Mr. Chen Shui-bian, President of the Republic of China on Taiwan, which marks the first successful and peaceful transition of power in Taiwan's history. Now in the year 2003, President Chen continues to make strides towards ensuring a robust democracy by guaranteeing the Taiwanese people freedom of speech and fundamental human rights.

Many events have transpired in Taiwan since President Chen Shui-bian has taken office. Over the last three years, President Chen has sought a meaningful dialogue and maintained a positive interaction with China. Unfortunately China has ignored President Chen's gestures of goodwill and has continued to deploy missiles along the coastal provinces aimed at Taiwan. It is my hope the leadership in China will realize that peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is in everyone's best interest.

Taiwan has also endured the outbreak of the alarming disease Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). I wish Taiwan's government and people every success in their endeavor to fight vigorously in order to control further spread of the SARS disease. As Secretary Powell said recently, SARS recognizes no international borders. Taiwan has made significant achievements in the field of healthcare and its medical experts have the potential to greatly contribute to the science of health. That said, Taiwan shouldn't be ruled out from the World Health Organization mainly due to political concern or obstruction.

We in the U.S. Congress appreciate Taiwan's friendship and support over the years. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Taiwan has offered assistance in helping the United States fight global terrorism. At the conclusion of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Taiwan government issued a statement supporting the Coalition of the Willing's cause and pledging to offer humanitarian assistance to postwar Iraq, just as they graciously did in the case of Afghanistan. Taiwan's generosity is welcomed and I look forward to a strong relationship with Taiwan for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on the eve of President Chen's third anniversary in office, I join my